

IPW LECTURES

Policy and Politics in Practice: The Work of Meeting, Talk and Text

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Abstract:

What are policy and politics, in practice? When we do politics and make policy, what are we doing? In this lecture, Richard Freeman wants to set out a framework for understanding policy and politics in terms of the actions - the doings and sayings - that they entail. He begins by grounding this understanding in the interactionism of Arendt and Goffman, and explores the core phenomena of gathering, encounter and meeting. He reflects on the way each is instantiated in forms of talk, and supported and extended by documents and texts; he points to their material predicates, including human bodies, spaces and time. He concludes by discussing some of the ontological implications of thinking of politics in this way.